

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An active document encapsulating a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising:

a first set of data fields, wherein the data fields represent attributes of a parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field; and

a first set of metadata, wherein the first set of metadata populates the first set of data fields and describes the attributes represented by the first set of data fields, the sub-identifier field including metadata from the first set of metadata that identifies a secondary transaction, the metadata in the sub-identifier field including linking data generated by the secondary transaction to link the secondary transaction to the active document, wherein the linking data generated by the secondary transaction is used to change contents of the active document if corresponding contents of the second transaction have been changed wherein the parent transaction is a purchase order and the secondary transaction is a sales order.

Claim 2 (original): The active document of claim 1, further comprising a parent transaction resource comprising the first set of data fields and the first set of metadata.

Claim 3 (original): The active document of claim 2, wherein the sub-identifier field links the parent transaction resource to a sub-transaction resource which comprises a second set of data fields that represent attributes of the secondary transaction and a second set of metadata that populates the second set of data fields and describes the attributes of the secondary transaction, whereby changes to the sub-transaction resource are reflected in the parent transaction resource.

Claim 4 (original): The active document of claim 3, wherein the second set of metadata comprises transaction specific data that corresponds to at least one data field in the first set of data fields, whereby a change to the transaction specific data is made in the corresponding data field by populating the corresponding data field with the transaction specific data.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The active document of claim 241, wherein the first set of metadata is stored in a repository that is accessed by a core.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The active document of claim 5, wherein the core matches the sub-identifier field to one of the one or more secondary transaction resources and updates the

first set of data fields by populating at least one data field in the first set of data fields with the data generated by the secondary transaction resource.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The active document of claim 241, wherein the active document is written in extensible markup language and is capable of being displayed by a web browser.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The active document of claim 241, wherein the data fields include a permissions fields which includes metadata that specifies who can access the active document.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The active document of claim 241, wherein the data fields include a second sub-identifier field that includes metadata that identifies a second secondary transaction resource, linking data generated by the second secondary transaction resource to the parent transaction resource-active document.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for creating an active document that encapsulates a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising:

creating a parent transaction resource, wherein the parent transaction resource represents and encapsulates data of one a-parent transaction and is linked to data generated by one or more a-secondary transactions and wherein the data generated by the one or more a-secondary transactions are used to change contents of the parent transaction resource active document-if corresponding contents of the one or more secondary transactions are updated, wherein the creating the parent transaction resource comprising:

generating a first set of data fields, wherein the first set of data fields represent attributes of the parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field, one or more data fields that are updated with data from the one or more secondary transactions and data fields that are independent of the one or more secondary transactions and are not updated with data from the one or more secondary transactions; and

populating the first set of data fields with a first set of metadata, wherein the metadata describes the attributes represented by the data fields.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 further comprising:

creating a sub-transaction resource, wherein the sub-transaction resource represents the a secondary transaction, the creating a sub-transaction resource comprising:

generating a second set of data fields, wherein the second set of data fields represent attributes of the secondary transaction and include an identifier field; and
populating the second set of data fields with a second set of metadata, wherein the metadata describes the attributes represented by the data fields and includes transaction specific data that corresponds to at least one of the first set of data fields in the parent transaction resource.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising:

linking the parent transaction resource and the secondary transaction resource so that changes made to the transaction specific data are made in the corresponding at least one of the first set of data fields in the parent transaction resource.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the linking comprises:

populating the sub-identifier field with metadata that identifies the secondary transaction; and

populating the identifier field with metadata that identifies the parent transaction.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising:

registering the parent transaction resource and the sub-transaction resource in a repository, whereby the first set of metadata and the second set of metadata may be accessed and updated.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the creating is conducted by submitting code written in a programming language that supports extensible markup language, the code comprising the first set of data fields and the first set of metadata.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the programming language is Java, C++, Perl or Python.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of viewing an active document that encapsulates a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising:

accessing a parent transaction resource, wherein the parent transaction resource comprises data fields that represent and encapsulates attributes of one a-parent transaction and metadata that populates the data fields and the parent transaction resource is linked to one or more a-secondary transaction resources that comprises transaction specific data, wherein the data fields in the parent transaction resource include one or more data fields that are updated with transaction specific data from the one or more secondary transaction resources

and data fields that are independent of the one or more secondary transaction resources and are not updated with data from the one or more secondary transaction resources;

updating the parent transaction resource with the transaction specific data from the secondary transaction resource, wherein any changes to the transaction specific data are made to the one or more data fields in the parent transaction resource; and

presenting the updated parent transaction resource to a user.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the accessing comprises the following:

sending a request for the parent transaction resource from a client to a core;
determining if the client is permitted to access the parent transaction resource; and

forwarding the request to a resource handler for the parent transaction resource, wherein the resource handler physically accesses the parent transaction resource.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the displaying comprises:

sending the updated transaction to the client; and

displaying the updated transaction using a web browser, whereby the metadata may be viewed.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The active document of claim 1, wherein multiple related transactions are tracked using the active document.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the parent transaction is related to the secondary transaction, the method further comprising:

tracking multiple related transactions using the active document.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the parent transaction is related to the secondary transaction, the method further comprising:

tracking multiple related transactions using the active document.

Claim 24 (new): An active document encapsulating a transaction and the transaction's current status, comprising:

a parent transaction resource, wherein the parent transaction resource represents and encapsulates data of one parent transaction and is linked to data generated by one or more secondary transaction resources and wherein the data generated by the one or more secondary transaction resources are used to change contents of the parent transaction resource if

corresponding contents of the one or more secondary transaction resources are updated, the parent transaction resource comprising:

a first set of data fields, wherein the data fields represent attributes of a parent transaction and include a sub-identifier field, one or more data fields that are updated with data from the one or more secondary transaction resources and data fields that are independent of the one or more secondary transaction resources and are not updated with data from the one or more secondary transaction resources; and

a first set of metadata, wherein the first set of metadata populates the first set of data fields and describes the attributes represented by the first set of data fields, the sub-identifier field including metadata from the first set of metadata that identifies the one or more secondary transaction resources, the metadata in the sub-identifier field including linking data generated by the one or more secondary transaction resources to link the one or more secondary transaction resources to the parent transaction resources, wherein the linking data generated by the one or more secondary transaction resources is used to change contents of the parent transaction resources if corresponding contents of the one or more secondary transaction resources have been changed.

Claim 25 (new): The active document of claim 24, wherein the sub-identifier field links the parent transaction resource to a first secondary transaction resource which comprises a second set of data fields and a second set of metadata that populates the second set of data fields, whereby changes to the first secondary transaction resource are reflected in the parent transaction resource.

Claim 26 (new): The active document of claim 25, wherein the second set of data fields includes a sub-identifier field that links the first secondary transaction resource to a second secondary transaction resource which includes a third set of data fields and a third set of metadata that populates the third set of data fields, whereby changes to the second secondary transaction resource are reflected in the first secondary transaction resource.

Claim 27 (new): The active document of claim 25 wherein changes to the first secondary transaction resource are reflected in only one data field in the parent transaction resource.